



MEMORANDUM

To: Larry Wolk, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Through: Tista S. Ghosh, MD, MPH
Director, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division

From: Mike Van Dyke, PhD
Chief of Environmental Epidemiology, Occupational Health & Toxicology
Section

Date: April 11, 2014 (Revised)

Re: Recommendations for Membership of Marijuana Health Effects and
Public Health Policy Advisory Committee

This memo is requesting your approval for the appointment of 11 persons to the Marijuana Health Effects and Public Health Policy Advisory Committee.

The mission of the Marijuana Health Effects and Public Health Policy Advisory Committee is to advise the overarching Marijuana Advisory Panel, whose expectations were set forth in Senate Bill 13-283, Section 10, 25-1.5-111, stating 1) the Department shall appoint a panel of health care professionals with expertise in cannabinoid physiology to produce a report by January 31, 2015, 2) the panel shall establish criteria for studies to be reviewed, reviewing studies and other data, and making recommendations for policies intended to protect consumers of marijuana, consumers of marijuana products, and the general public.

This Advisory Committee shall be comprised of established individuals, from numerous respected organizations, that have expertise in various fields that intersect with possible conditions or health effects from marijuana use. The committee shall also include at least one representative from CDPHE, whose responsibilities will include organizing and leading this committee. We recommend the inclusion of the following individuals:



Judith Shlay, MD (Surveillance Epidemiologist)

Dr. Shlay is a family practitioner at Denver Public Health. Her specialty is in geriatric medicine.

George Sam Wang, MD, FAAP (Pediatrician)

Dr. Wang is a practicing physician specializing in pediatric emergency medicine and medical toxicology. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital Colorado and faculty at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. Dr. Wang has done work on childhood marijuana toxicity and marijuana packaging recommendations.

Al Bronstein MD, FACMT (Poison Center Director)

Dr. Bronstein is the Medical Director of the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center (RMPDC). He is the lead physician in the RMPDC surveillance effort. He is the chairman of the American Association of Poison Control Centers National Poison Data System Steering Committee in charge of system development. Dr. Bronstein also serves as an associate professor in the departments of surgery, Emergency Medicine and clinical pharmacology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Bronstein is board certified in medical toxicology, emergency medicine and family medicine.

Christian Thurstone MD (Addiction Psychiatrist)

Dr. Thurstone is a board-certified Addiction Psychiatrist, General Psychiatrist and Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist. He is also an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado and the Medical Director of an adolescent/young adult substance treatment program at Denver Health. His research focuses on treating marijuana addiction.

Heath Harmon MH (Local Public Health Representative)

Mr. Harmon currently serves as the Director of Health Programs for Boulder County Public Health. He has taken the lead contact role for marijuana communications for Boulder County and has been proactive in messaging the danger in youth marijuana use.

Andrew Monte MD, MSc (Medical Toxicologist)

Dr. Monte is a practicing Emergency Medicine Physician and medical toxicologist at the University of Colorado Hospital. He is also an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. One of Dr. Monte's research interests is cannabinoid toxicology.

Laura Borgelt, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS (Pharmacologist)

Dr. Borgelt is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She specializes in Clinical Pharmacy and Family Medicine and serves as the clinical pharmacy specialist at the University of



Colorado Hospital. Dr. Borgelt has recently authored a paper on the pharmacologic and clinical effects of medical cannabis.

Bruce Mendelson MPA (Drug Epidemiologist)

Mr. Mendelson is the Senior Data Consultant at the Denver Office of Drug Strategy. For many years he has been the primary author on the biannual Proceedings of the Denver Epidemiology Work Group which reports the results of community-level surveillance of drug abuse in the City & County of Denver and the Denver metro area.

Russell Bowler MD, PhD (Pulmonologist)

Dr. Bowler is a practicing Pulmonologist at National Jewish Health. He is also Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Bowler's clinical and research focus is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He has spent many years studying the pulmonary effects of smoking.

Ashley Brooks-Russell, PhD, MPH (CSPH Representative)

Dr. Brooks-Russell is an Assistant Professor at the Colorado School of Public Health and a member of the Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research Program. Her research focuses on adolescent injury prevention, in the areas of violence and suicide prevention and promoting safe driving.

Sharon Langendoerfer, MD

Dr. Langendoerfer is a practicing Pediatrician and Neonatologist at Denver Health Medical Center. For many years she has cared for high risk infants and children, including those exposed before birth to alcohol and other drugs. Dr. Langendoerfer is also an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

CDPHE Representation:

Ken Gershman MD

Dr. Gershman is the Manager of the Medical Marijuana Research Grant Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). He has worked as a public health practitioner at CDPHE in the areas of communicable diseases and chronic disease prevention, including managing the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, and Chronic Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Amendment 35 grant program.

Tista Ghosh MD, MPH

Dr. Ghosh is a physician trained in both internal medicine and preventive medicine, with a master's degree in public health. Dr. Ghosh has experience in both communicable and non-communicable disease epidemiology and public health research, as well as over a decade of experience in public health at the



local, state, federal and international levels. She has served as a medical epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and for Tri-County Health Department (Colorado's largest local health department), and has also been a consultant to the World Health Organization, Save the Children John Snow International, and UNICEF. She serves as both the Department's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and the director of the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division

Michael Van Dyke PhD, CIH

Dr. Van Dyke is the Chief of the Environmental Epidemiology, Occupational Health, and Toxicology Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental Health from Colorado State University and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

